

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 17, as follows:

“The siloxane derivative, 1,3,5,7-tetramethylcyclo-tetrasiloxane (TMCTS, ~~Hydrosilox~~
HYDROSILOX®) was polymerized on the suture surface in a glow discharge plasma deposition
lasting for varying amounts of time, forming a siloxane-coated suture. The TMCTS plasma was
generated at 83 W, 55 mTorr, and a flow rate of 84 sccm. It was found that the application of the
plasma coating for time periods ranging from 2 to 6 minutes formed polymer coatings that
prevented the fraying of the polypropylene suture material.”